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EXPLANATION.

As early as August, 1895, the Society commenced the publication of its records, issuing the first volume in the form of fascicles, usually containing one paper, selected by the Committee on Publication. In this manner the first volume of 242 pages was completed in July, 1897. In May, 1898, the paper of Mr Spofford, entitled, "The Life and Labors of Peter Force, Mayor of Washington," containing thirteen pages, was published as the first fascicle of Volume 2. Subsequently, November, 1898, the Board of Managers changed the style of publication from that of the brochure form to that of a volume, and directed the Committee on Publication to include in such volume such, and only such, papers as the Board might order to be published, together with the reports of officers and proceedings of its meetings. This action of the Board effected, for the time being, the abandonment of the brochure and adoption of the volume form, the consequent obliteration of the first fascicle of Volume 2, and the republication of Mr Spofford's paper in its proper place in the *Reminiscences of the Mayors* in this volume.

The foregoing statement has been deemed necessary to avoid the confusion of issuing two volumes numbered 2, one consisting only of a single paper in the brochure form.